

SECRET

IDEA-0403

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28 July 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, WPD-DB/P

SUBJECT: IDEALIST Missions from Laughlin AFB

REFERENCE: A. IDEA-0354 dated 19 July 1961  
B. IDEA-0351 dated 19 July 1961  
C. Memo for the Record by [redacted] WPD/Secur,  
Subj: Trip Report San Antonio, Texas and  
Laughlin AFB, 5-7 June 61 dated 15 June 1961  
D. Washington Star News Item dated 16 July 1961

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1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for your approval in paragraph 6.

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2. Reference A prepared by the Chief, Cover Branch points out the wide interest generated by [redacted] report on tropical cyclones. It appears that continuous worldwide publicity has resulted from this talk with the possibility of more to follow. It is apparent that publicity such as this, plus U-2 participation in the Weather Bureau's cloud seeding program could provide the logical umbrella for operating from East Coast bases.

3. Reference B highlights the operational and security factors making Laughlin AFB objectionable for continuing Cuban overflights.

4. Reference C points out recent press disclosures regarding IDEALIST activities at Laughlin AFB. In addition, there is unusual local interest in all base activity which has been generated by the scheduled closing of the entire base.

5. Reference D deals with a speech made by the National Commander of the VFW wherein he stated that U-2 overflights had been made over Cuba. It is interesting to note that while Laughlin AFB or Del Rio were not mentioned, the speaker, Mr. Ted Council is from Killean, Texas.

6. The Security Branch concurs in the recommendations made by the Chief, Special Projects Branch (Reference B) and Chief, Cover Branch (Reference A) and suggests that in view of the additional input of Chief, Cover Branch the recommendation of Chief, Special Projects Branch receive your concurrence.

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This document contains information  
referring to Project IDEALIST

Approved For Release

SIGNED

[redacted]

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